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DD/S&T# 4369-79

NFAC #4274/79

24 AUG 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology
FROM : Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
SUBJECT : Access to Local Vernacular Publications in the Soviet
Union for Better Intelligence of Soviet Muslim
Minorities ☐

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1. The above subject came up in the course of a discussion-dinner in February when the Director was informed that local publications, mainly newspapers, in various Soviet minority vernaculars, are not subject to the controls imposed on publications at the republic level and above and therefore are an invaluable and largely neglected source of intelligence regarding the Soviet Muslim minorities. ☐

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2. The Director subsequently asked that the possibility of exploiting this intelligence source be explored. When this was done three distinct problems emerged. One was the need to determine what publications, in terms of languages and regional locations, should be exploited. The task of making this determination was given an interagency Soviet Nationalities Working Group with an NFAC chairman. The second problem was how to acquire the local publications. They are not carried on the lists of publications available by subscription and are thus far available only by purchase at local kiosks, an obviously unsatisfactory method of procurement. NFAC, with help from DDO, is exploring possible alternatives. The third problem was the availability of properly qualified translators, which is a DDS&T/FBIS problem. ☐

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3. It appears that a shortage of FBIS Headquarters translators has limited capability to exploit Muslim (and other Soviet vernacular) publications that are available by subscription and would continue to be a limiting factor if the desired local publications should become available. FBIS has indicated, however, that although it has been difficult to find competent translators for some of the languages, this aspect of the problem is being

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solved so that the ultimate constraint is now lack of sufficient personnel authorizations. Specifically, FBIS has indicated a need for two to five additional spaces, depending upon the languages to be exploited as determined by the interagency Soviet Nationalities Working Group.

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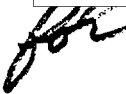
4. My purpose in writing you this memorandum is to urge you to consider making the needed spaces available once this determination has been arrived at. I am doing so on the informal advice of the Comptroller in lieu of the recommendation that the matter be submitted to the Executive Committee for resolution, which the Director has approved, because of the comparatively minor burden of the requirement.

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5. The file attached includes all the relevant memoranda summarized in the four paragraphs above.

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 Bruce C. Clarke, Jr.

Attachment

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional) Access to Local Vernacular Publications in the Soviet Union
for Better Intelligence of Soviet Muslim Minorities ☐

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FROM: Bruce C. Clarke, Jr., Deputy
Director for National Foreign
Assessment

EXTENSION

NO.

NFAC # 4274/79

DATE

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TO: (Officer designation, room number, and
building)

DATE

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom
to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

DD/S&T

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*See
27 Aug*